

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 016743 TOSEC 010166

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT YAOUNDE 263 ACTION SECSTATE 22 JAN

QUOTE

S E C R E T YAOUNDE 0263

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, AO, OAU

SUBJ: GURC FONMIN VIEWS MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS AS LAST CHANCE FOR
ANGOLA

REF: STATE 10166

1. IN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN KEUTCHA (DETAILS BY
SEPTTEL) HE EMPHASIZED DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF SECRETARY'S EF-
FORTS IN MOSCOW TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT OF ANGOLAN PROBLEM WITH
SOVIETS, IN VIEW OF DETERIORATING SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

KEUTCHAS WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA

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AND POSED QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MPLA GAINED CONTROL

OF 100 PER CENT OF TERRITORY. IN THAT CASE, GURC ALONG WITH OTHER MODERATES WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE "GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA". SINCE MATTERS WERE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION AND ANTI-MPLA FORCES ARE NOT RECEIVING OUTSIDE SUPPORT EQUAL TO MPLA'S, SECRETARY'S EFFORT IN MOSCOW IS LAST CHANCE TO PREVENT THIS OUTCOME.

2. KEUTCHA CLAIMS TO HAVE TOLD SOVIET AMBASSADOR SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG TO IMPOSE MPLA BY FORCE ON ANGOLA. MPLA MIGHT WIN BUT FNLA/UNITA SUPPORTERS WOULD RESORT TO GUERRILLA WARFARE AND NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE BLOCKED FOR MANY YEARS. SOVIET UNION FAILED TO RECOGNIZE TRIBAL BASIS WITHIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND ITS EFFORTS TO IMPOSE MPLA ON ANGOLA, WHILE PERHAPS SUCCESSFUL IN SHORT RUN, WOULD BE LONG RUN DEFEAT. KEUTCHA TOLD SOV AND US HE SPOKE FROM EXPERIENCE AS FORMER PREFECT WHO SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT FIRST COMMUNIST SUPPORTED INSURGENCY IN AFRICA.
SPIRO UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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